

February 12, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington D.C. 20544

Re: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As the President of Consumers First, Inc., I'm writing to encourage you and the FCC to support the elimination of the current unbundling regulations that have hurt the telecommunications industry and the high tech manufacturing sector.

It's obvious that the current unbundling rules are not working when I read news reports that more than a half-million jobs have been lost in the telecom industry over the past three years. In addition, telecom companies have cut back in building facilities and infrastructure.

I support the proposals that are before the FCC that would eliminate unbundled switching and the UNE-P provisions. This would free the way for broadband investment and the deployment of valuable new technologies nationwide -- providing small and large businesses with products and services to make them more efficient and competitive. In addition, new jobs would be created and telecom companies would have the incentive to increase capital spending and investment.

Changing current unbundling rules would be a win-win for consumers and businesses. Please keep that in mind as the FCC moves forward toward a decision in its triennial review process.

Sincerely,

/JMC/  
James M. Conran  
President

Cc: Commissioner Abernathy  
Commissioner Adelstein  
Commissioner Martin  
Commissioner Copps